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California Adolescents Ages 11-18: A Fact Sheet

Compiled By
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Patricia de Cos
Marcus Nieto

For Assemblymember Susan Davis, Chair Assembly Select Committee on Adolescence

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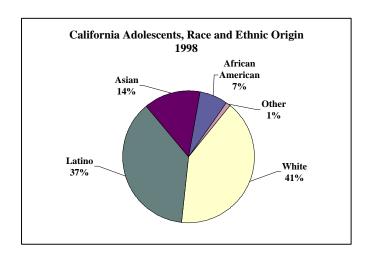
ADOLESCENTS AGES 11-18 IN CALIFORNIA—A FACT SHEET

For Assemblymember Susan Davis, Chair, Assembly Select Committee on Adolescence

Demographics

| Table 1 | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Race and Ethnic Origin | | | | |
| White | 1,602,126 | | | |
| Latino | 1,428,048 | | | |
| Asian | 538,345 | | | |
| African | 277,960 | | | |
| American | 211,900 | | | |
| Other | 21,106 | | | |
| Total | 3,867,584 | | | |
| Source: Califo | ornia Research Bureau | | | |

Source: California Research Bureau using 1998 March Current Population Survey



- In 1998, 83% of California adolescents were born in the U.S., 14% were born in other countries.
- 88.5% of California adolescents were living at home and not married, 7.5% were with other relatives, 3% with a non-related family, and 1% were on their own (1998).
- In 1997, 86,929 California children were living in foster care.

Economic Status

| Table 2 Poverty Level of Family and Family Income | | | | |
|--|-----------|---------|--------------------------|--|
| | Frequency | Percent | Average Family Income | |
| Income Below Poverty Level* | 922,761 | 23.9% | \$10,718 | |
| 100-124% above poverty | 235,591 | 6.1% | \$21,453 | |
| 125-149% above poverty | 187,502 | 4.8% | \$25,008 | |
| 150% and above poverty | 2,521,730 | 65.2% | \$69,970 | |
| Total | 3,867,584 | 100.0% | \$50,698 | |
| *1998 Federal Poverty Guideline: Fan Source: California Research Bureau u | • | | у | |

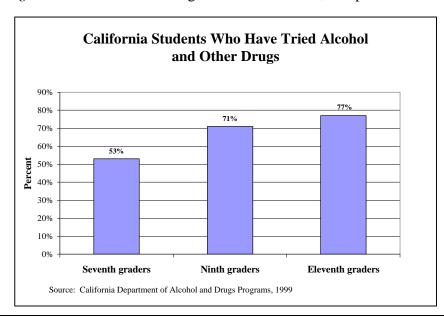
• 88% of California adolescents do not work; 6% work under 19 hours a week and 6% work 20 hours or more per week. Studies find that adolescents who work more than 20 hours a week do not perform as well in school and are more likely to use drugs.

Health

• 22.5% of California adolescents are not covered by health insurance; nearly 20% are covered by Medicaid or Medicare.

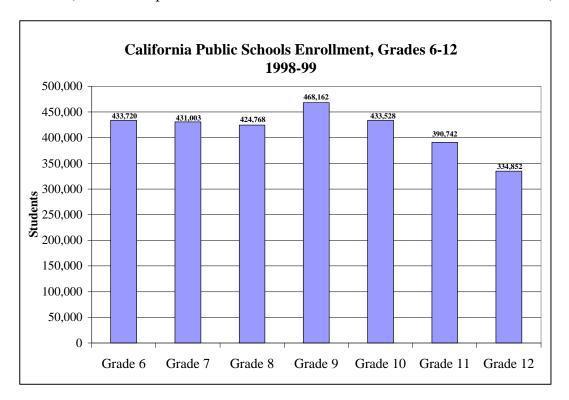
| requency 868,402 | Percent 22.5% |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | 22.5% |
| 764 212 | 22.370 |
| 764,313 | 19.7% |
| 91,733 | .2% |
| 835,829 | 47.5% |
| 100,317 | 2.6% |
| 151,207 | 3.9% |
| 27 214 | 1.4% |
| | 27,214 rch Current Popula |

- *Births to Teens*: From 1995 to 1997, one out of every sixteen female California teenagers between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth, the equivalent of 61.7 births per 1,000 female teens. Teen births account for one in three unwed births.
- Deaths: In 1997, 22% of California high school students seriously considered attempting suicide. In 1995, 73 percent of all deaths among youth nationwide resulted from four causes motor vehicle crashes, other unintentional injuries (including not using motorcycle and bicycle helmets or seat belt, riding with a drunk driver, and driving drunk), homicide, and suicide.
- Asthma: Around ½ million Californians under age 18 suffer from asthma, which is the most common respiratory disease of children and adolescents.
- Smoking: 27% of California teenagers smoked in 1997, compared to 36% nationwide.

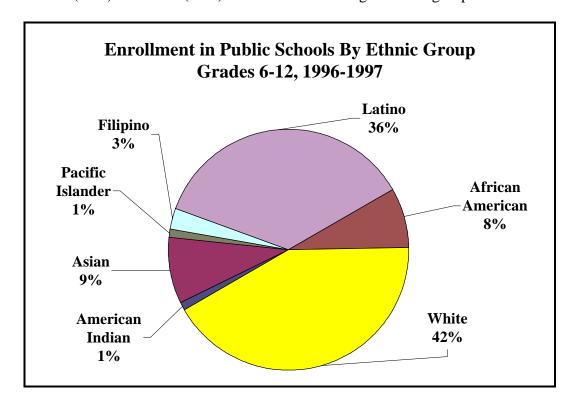


Education

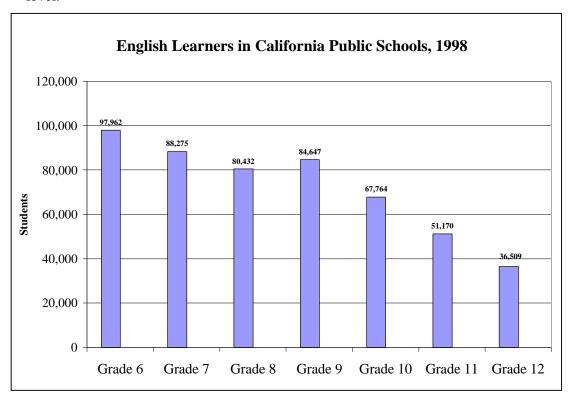
• Nearly three million California students were enrolled in public schools grades 6-12, in 1998. (The state Department of Education is the data source for the charts below.)



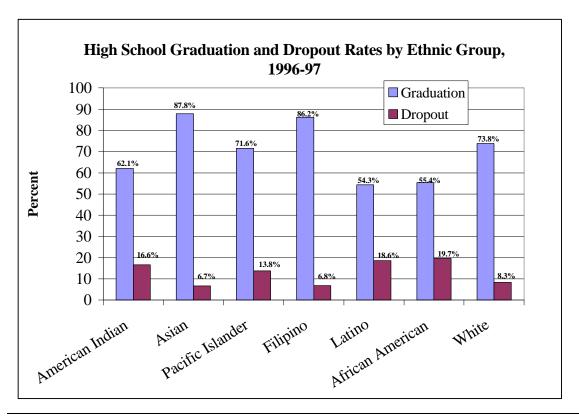
• Latinos (36%) and white (42%) students were the largest ethnic groups in 1996-97.



• The proportion of children learning English as a second language decreases with grade level.

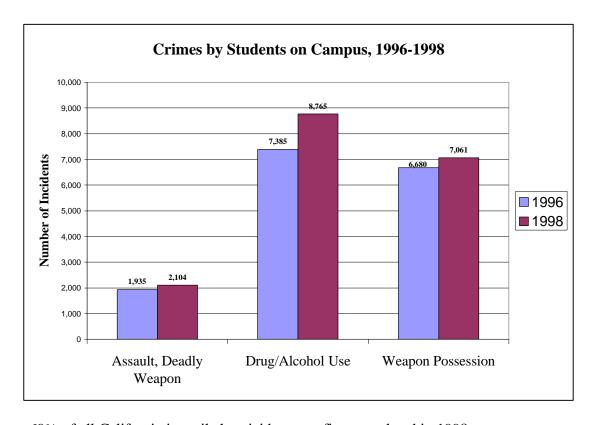


- Asians students have the highest graduation rates from California high schools (grades 9-12).
- African Americans and Hispanics have the highest dropout rates.



Public Safety and Youth Violence

• The incidence of crimes committed by students on California public school campuses is increasing.



- 69% of all California juvenile homicides were firearm-related in 1998.
- 82% of California cities and counties reported youth gang activity in 1996.

Criminal Justice

- The "8% problem": An estimated 8% of first time juvenile offenders (under age 17) in Orange County accounted for approximately 50% of repeat offenses, as tracked over three-year periods beginning in 1985 and 1987; 71% of the first time juvenile offenders in the studies did not re-offend.
- There are over 9,000 juveniles in custody in the California Youth Authority (CYA), at an average yearly cost of \$33,000 per person. The CYA estimates that approximately 60% are in need of drug and alcohol treatment, 10% need mental health counseling and 12% are considered extremely violent and anti-social.
- Juveniles comprised 18% of all felony arrests in California in 1997, including 16% of all homicide arrests, and 16% of all felony marijuana arrests.